

# Needs of Children Adjudicated Delinquent in DCS Custody: Similarities to D/N/A Children

Justice for Juveniles Task Force

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# TCCY Evaluation

- Children's Program Outcome Review Team (CPORT).
- Quality Service Review (QSR) evaluation of systems serving children in custody.
- Intensive case review of random selection of children in state custody by region.
- Statistical validity: 80-85% regionally, 95% statewide.

# TCCY Evaluation

- Identifies status of children in custody and their families and how well the service system is performing functions/responsibilities.
- Identifies “critical issues” for children and families.
- Provides qualitative and quantitative information for system improvement.

# Purpose

- To promote overall quality improvement in services provided to children and families.
- To stimulate change and instill principles of best practice.
- To ensure the proper provision of services by various agencies to children in state custody.

# Methodology

- Quality Service Review/Service Testing method for measuring service delivery outcomes.
- Tests how well individual consumers/ children and families are doing in areas related to services received.
- Determines how well service system functions were implemented in those cases.

# Records Reviewed by C-PORT

- Petition that led to custody
- Court order for custody
- Social History
- Psychological evaluation(s)
- Other specialized evaluations
- Permanency Plan
- Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Individual Program Plan (IPP)
- Medical Information

# CPORT Interviews

- Child, if age appropriate
- Parent(s)
- Caregiver (foster parent or direct care staff in a facility)
- DCS case manager
- Residential case manager, if one for a child in a residential facility

# CPORT Interviews (continued)

- Teacher/school representative
- Representative of the court ordering custody
- Any other relevant service provider  
(contract agency staff, Guardian ad Litem, therapist, etc.)
- Other significant person (relative, friend, coach)



# Department of Children's Services

Single Department of Children's Services created in 1996 for all children in state custody regardless of adjudication/treatment needs:

- Child Welfare – dependent/neglected/abused;
- Status Offenders – “unruly” in Tennessee;
- Juvenile Justice – delinquent;
- Mental Health – mental health treatment needs.

# Integrated CW/JJ System Benefits

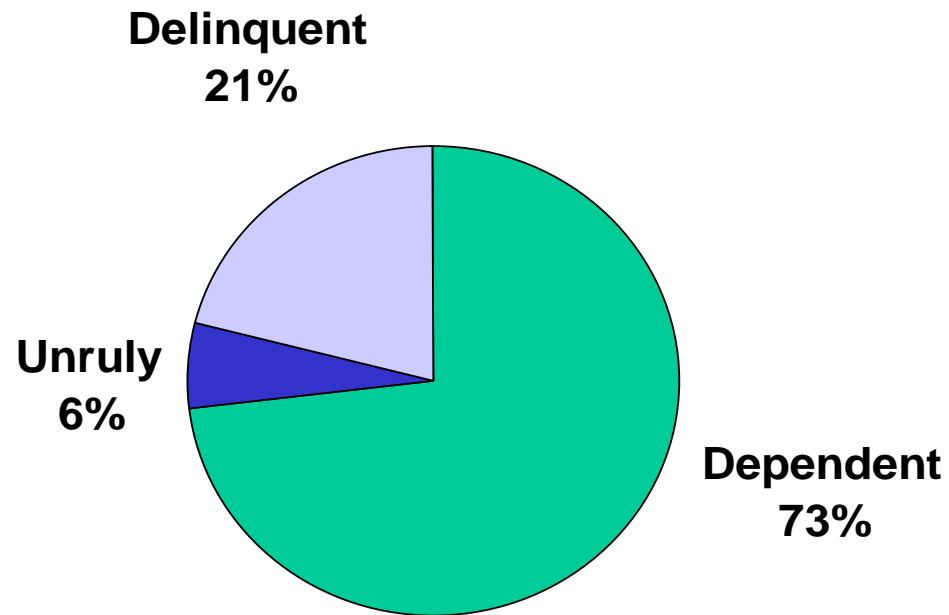
- Access to federal Title IVB/E funds for delinquent children who are not in secure placements.
- Required to comply with federal Adoption and Safe Families Act requirements, including Foster Care Review.
- Access to federal Medicaid funds for delinquent children under “children in special living arrangements” option.

# Similarity of CW/JJ Issues

- Children/families have similar issues/treatment needs regardless of adjudication.
- Presence of multiple issues increases risk of custody.
- Multiple issues also increase level of difficulty in addressing treatment needs.
- Comparisons by adjudication for children ages 13+ are most relevant.

# Adjudication

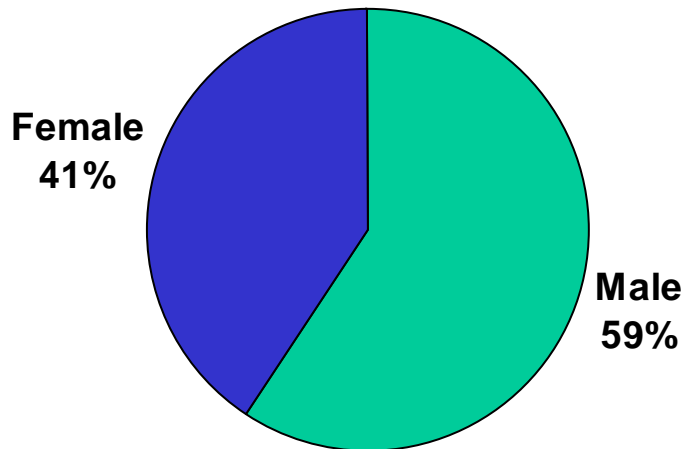
## 2003 State Cases CPORT Results



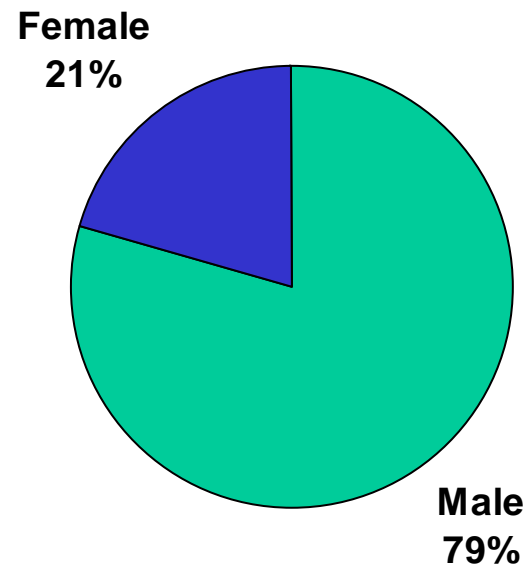
# Gender

## 2003 State Cases CPORT Results

**Dependent Age 13+**



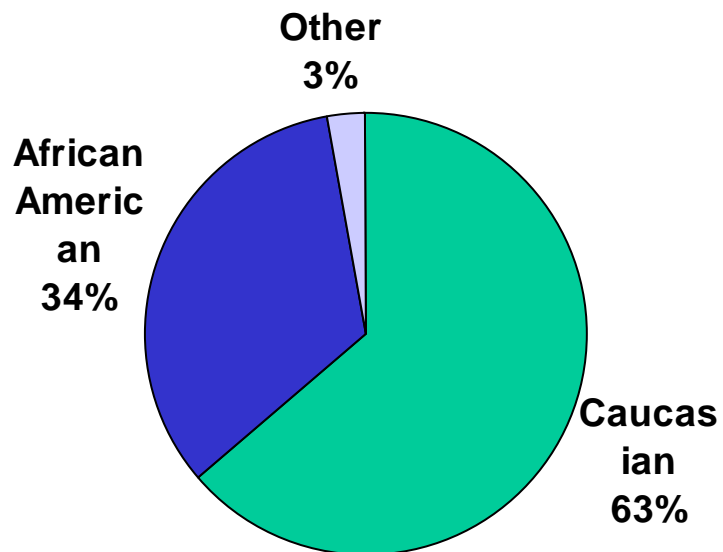
**Delinquent Age 13+**



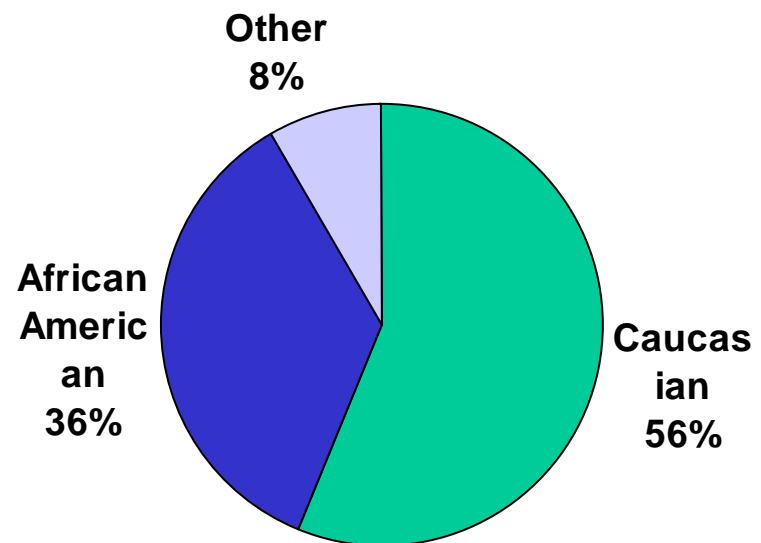
# Race

## 2003 State Cases CPORT Results

**Dependent Age 13+**

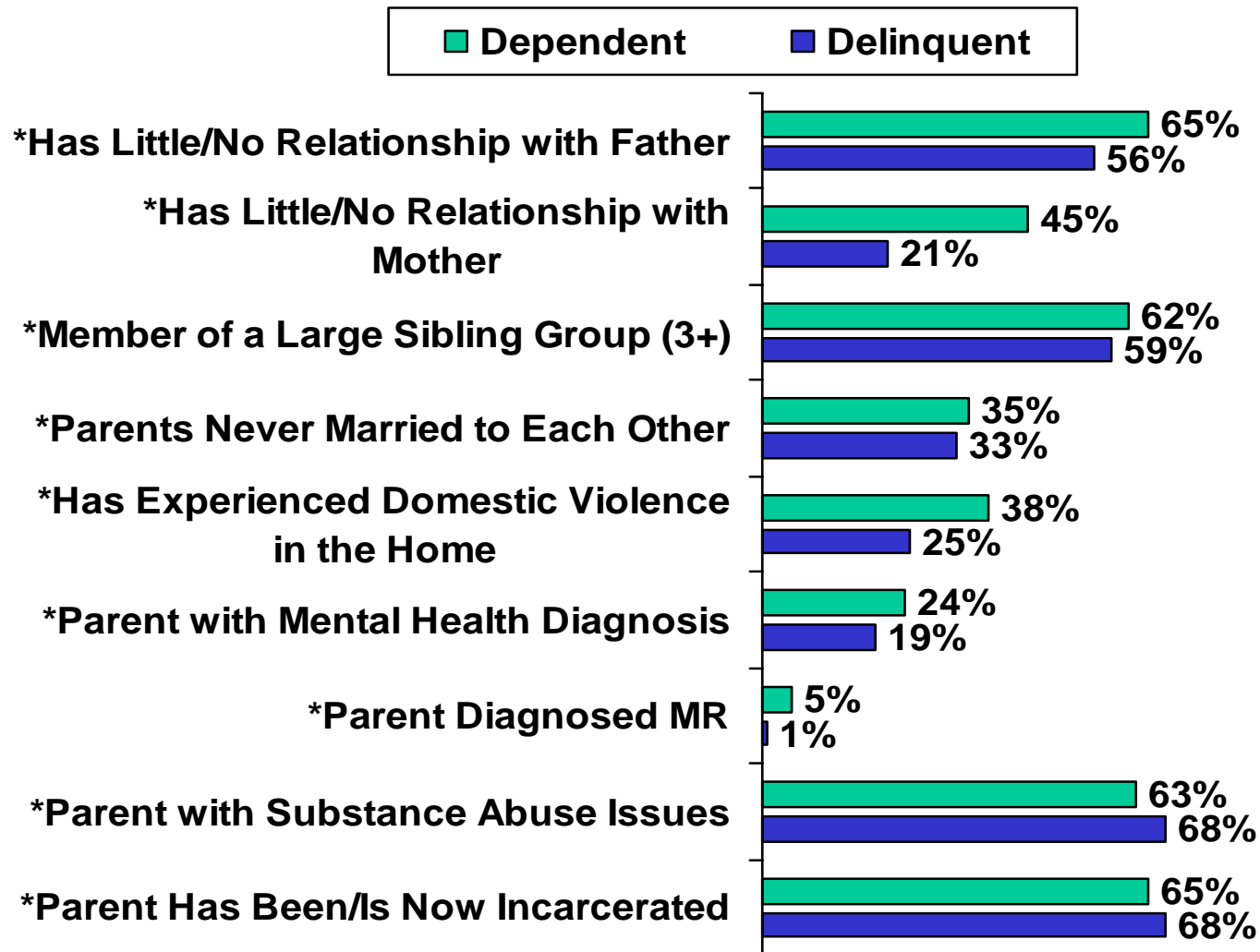


**Delinquent Age 13+**



# Critical Family Issues

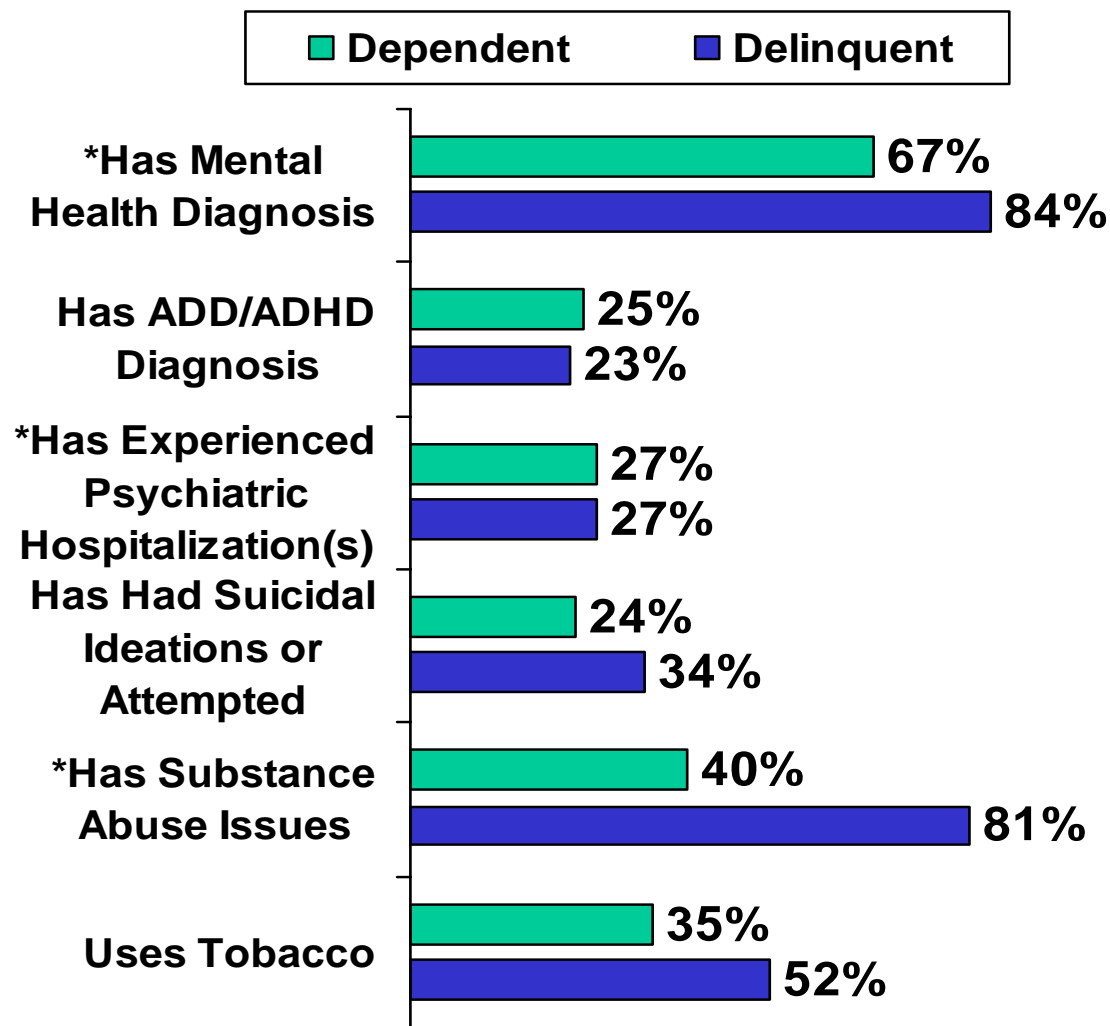
## Comparison By Adjudication Age 13+



2003 CPORT Results

# Critical Mental Health Issues

## Comparison By Adjudication Age 13+

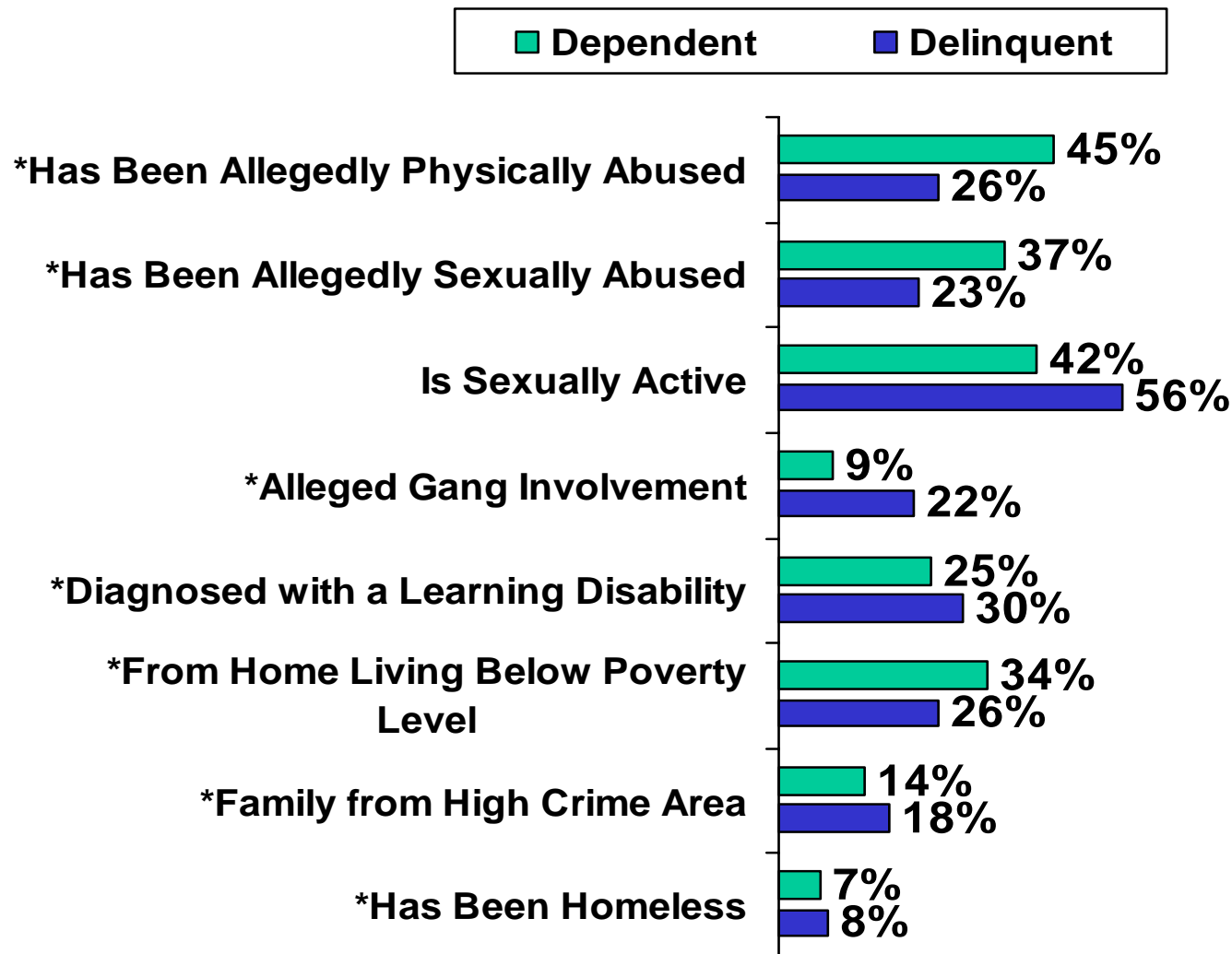


2003 CPORT Results



# Other Critical Issues

## Comparison By Adjudication Age 13+



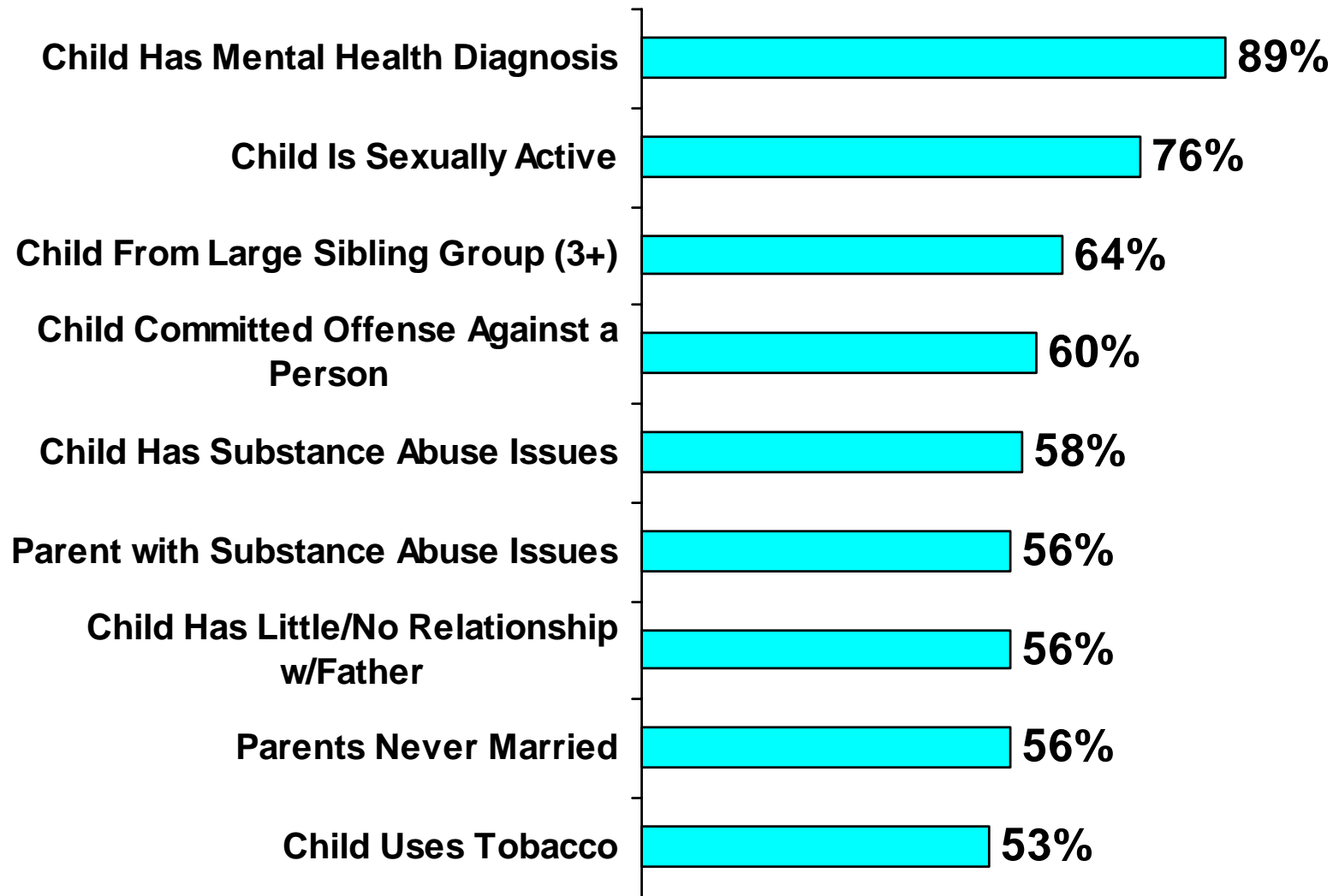
2003 CPORT Results

# Woodland Hills Study

- January 2004.
- Reviewed 45 randomly selected cases of youth at Woodland Hills Youth Development Center.
- Results represent the population of children at Woodland Hills at the 90% confidence level with 10% margin of error.

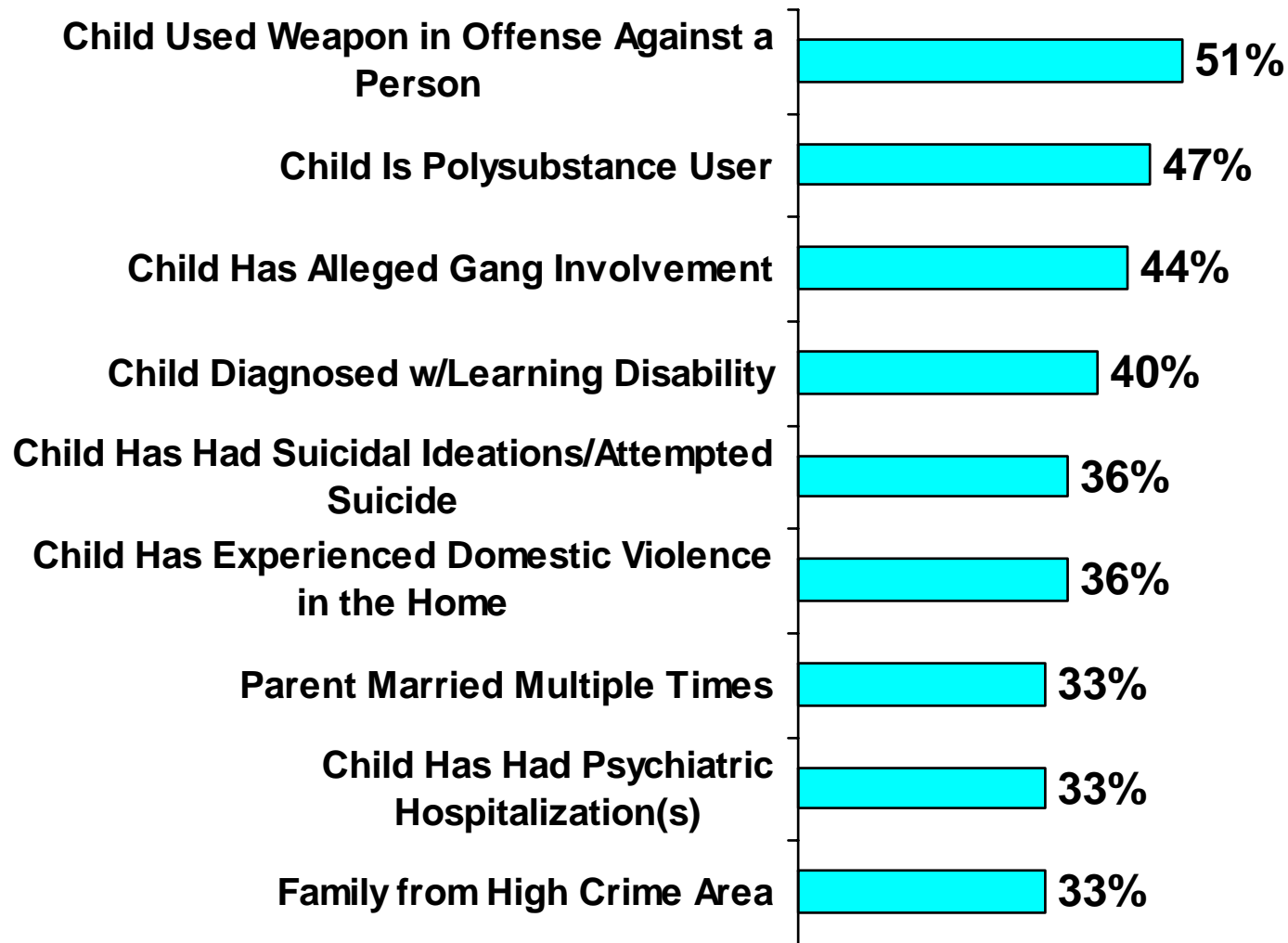
# Critical Issues for the Child

## 2004 Woodland Hills JJ Study



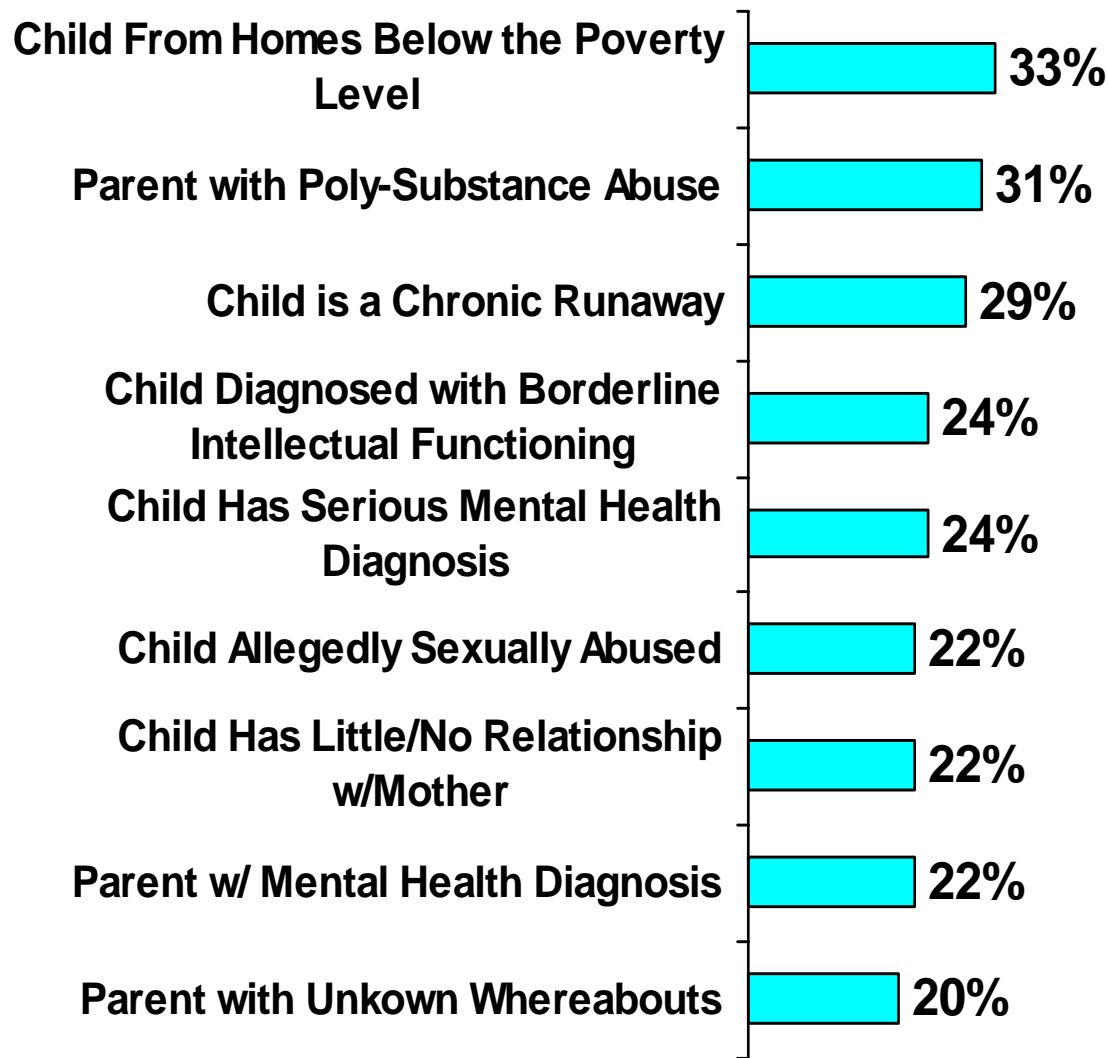
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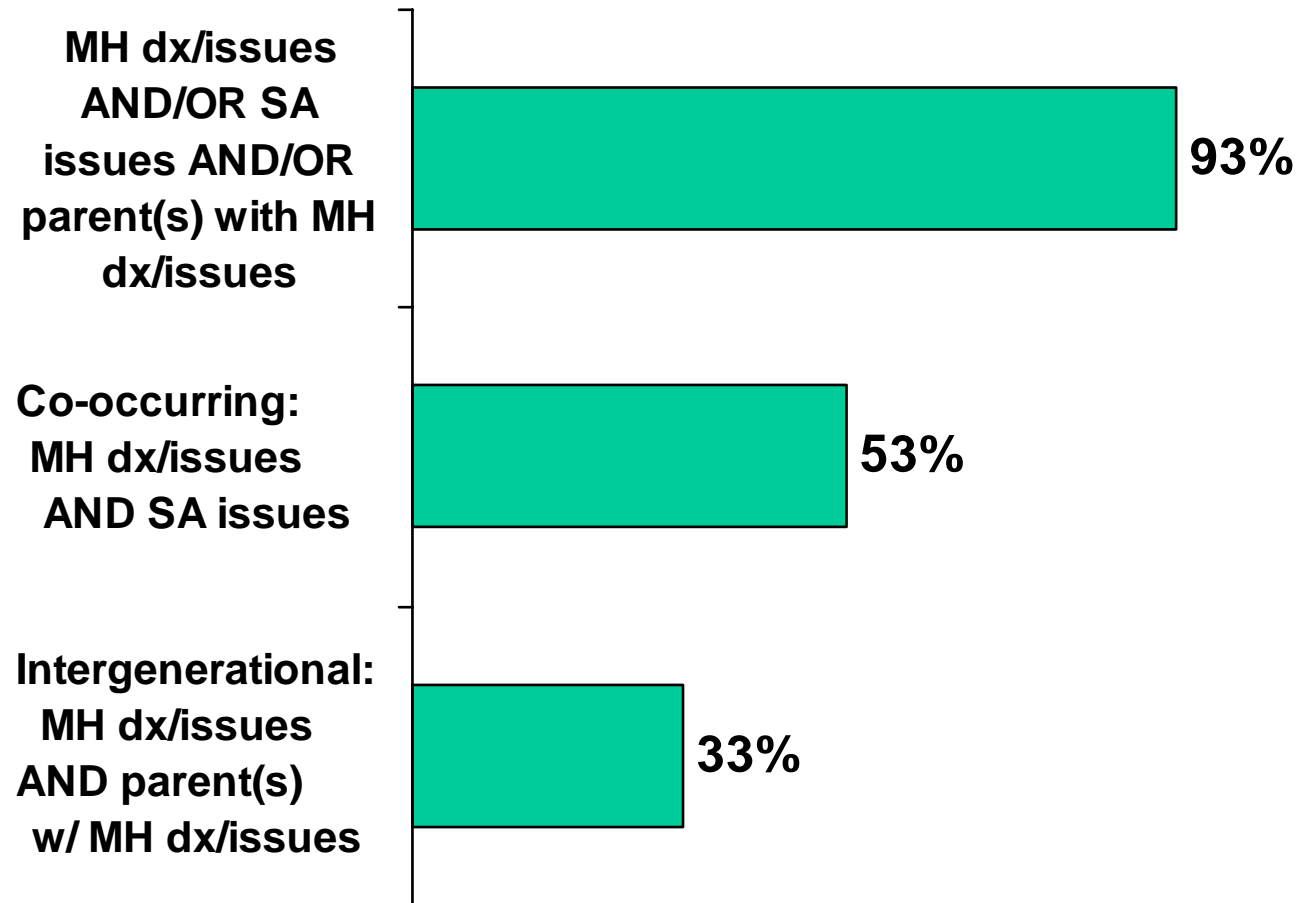
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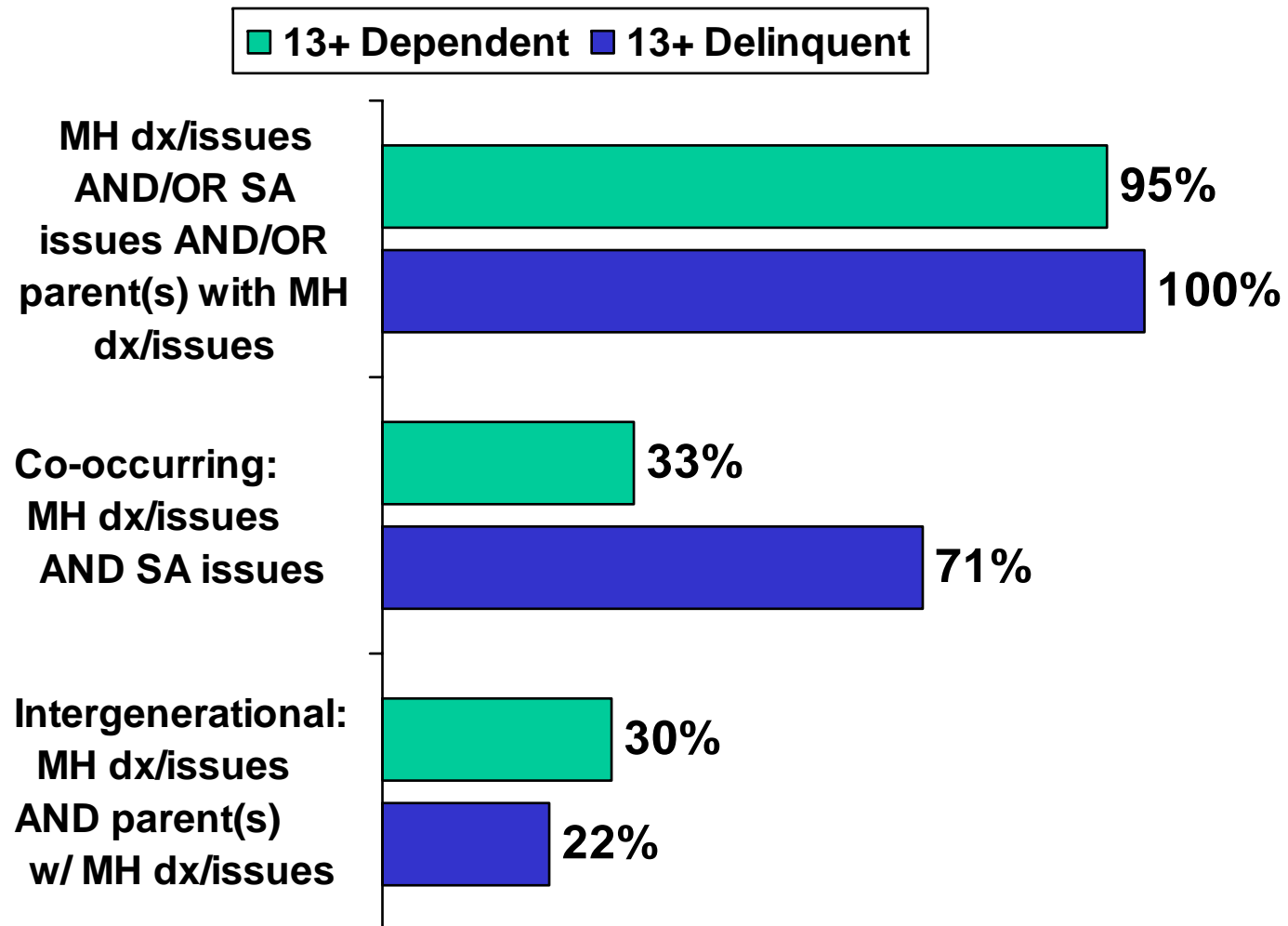


# **Critical Intergenerational and Combined Issues**

## **2004 Woodland Hills JJ Study**



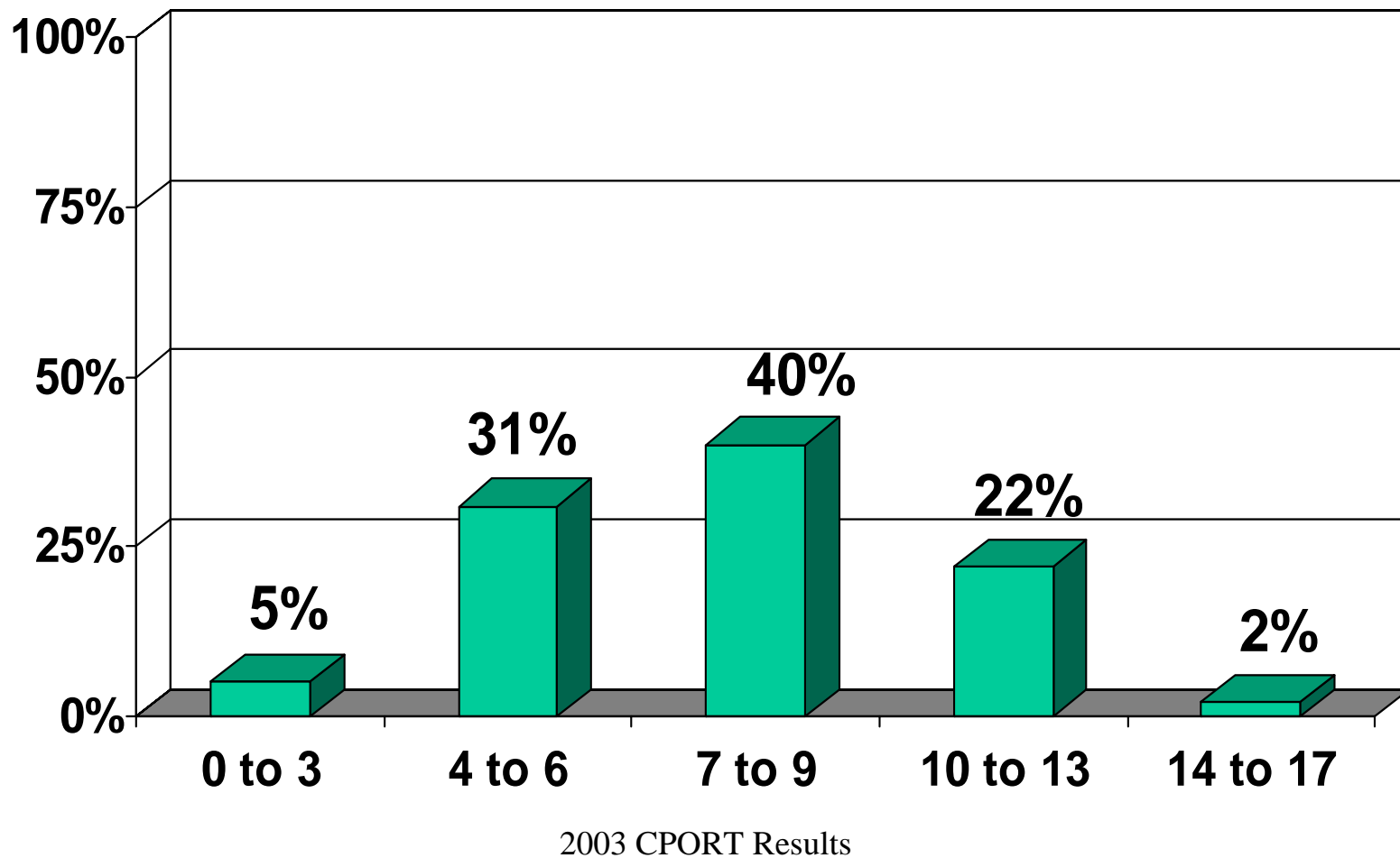
# Critical Intergenerational and Combined Issues



2003 CPORT Results

# 19 At-Risk Critical Issues

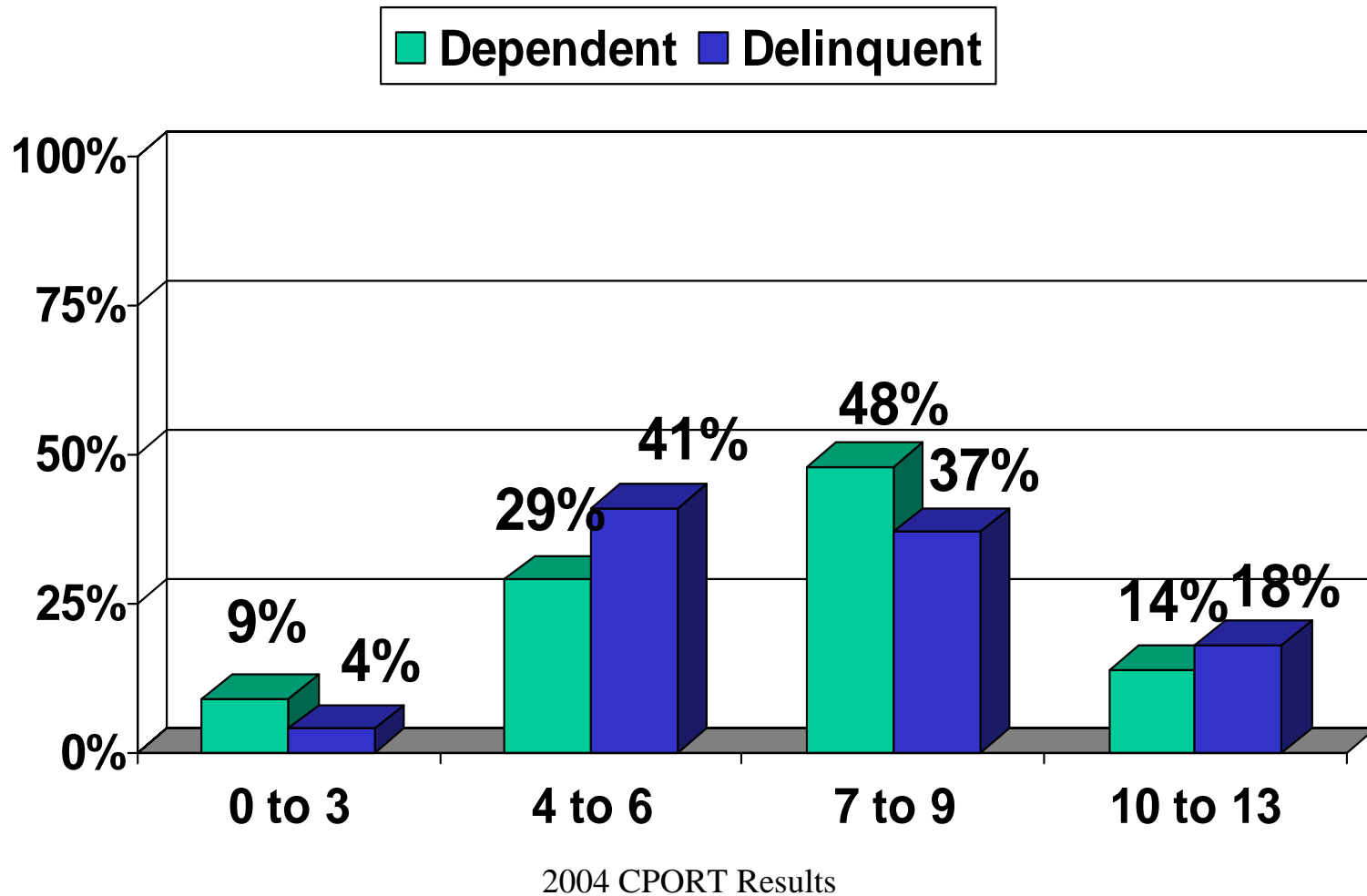
## by Adjudication





# 19 At-Risk Critical Issues

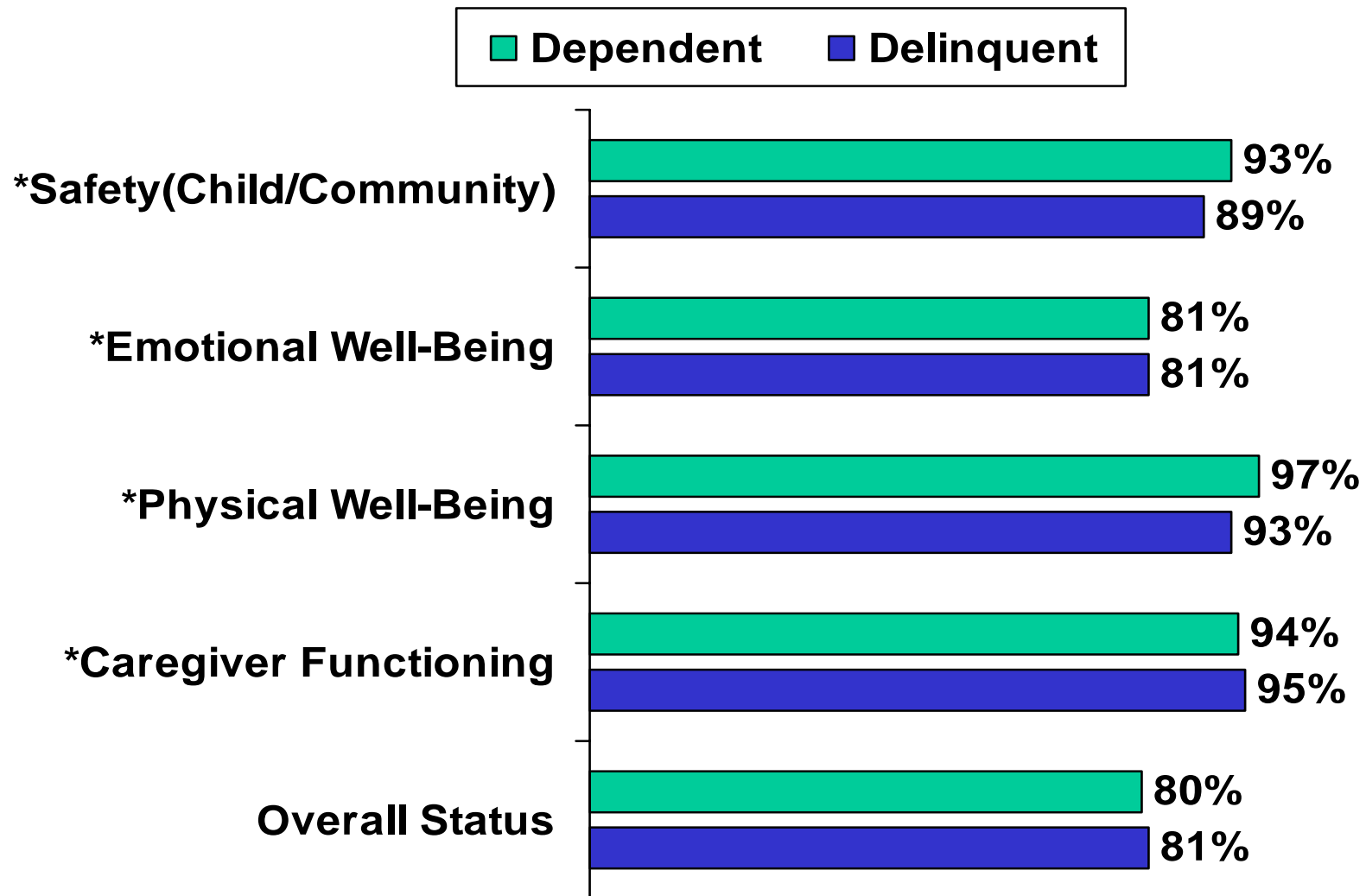
(starred items) Woodland Hills Study



# CPORT 2003 Results

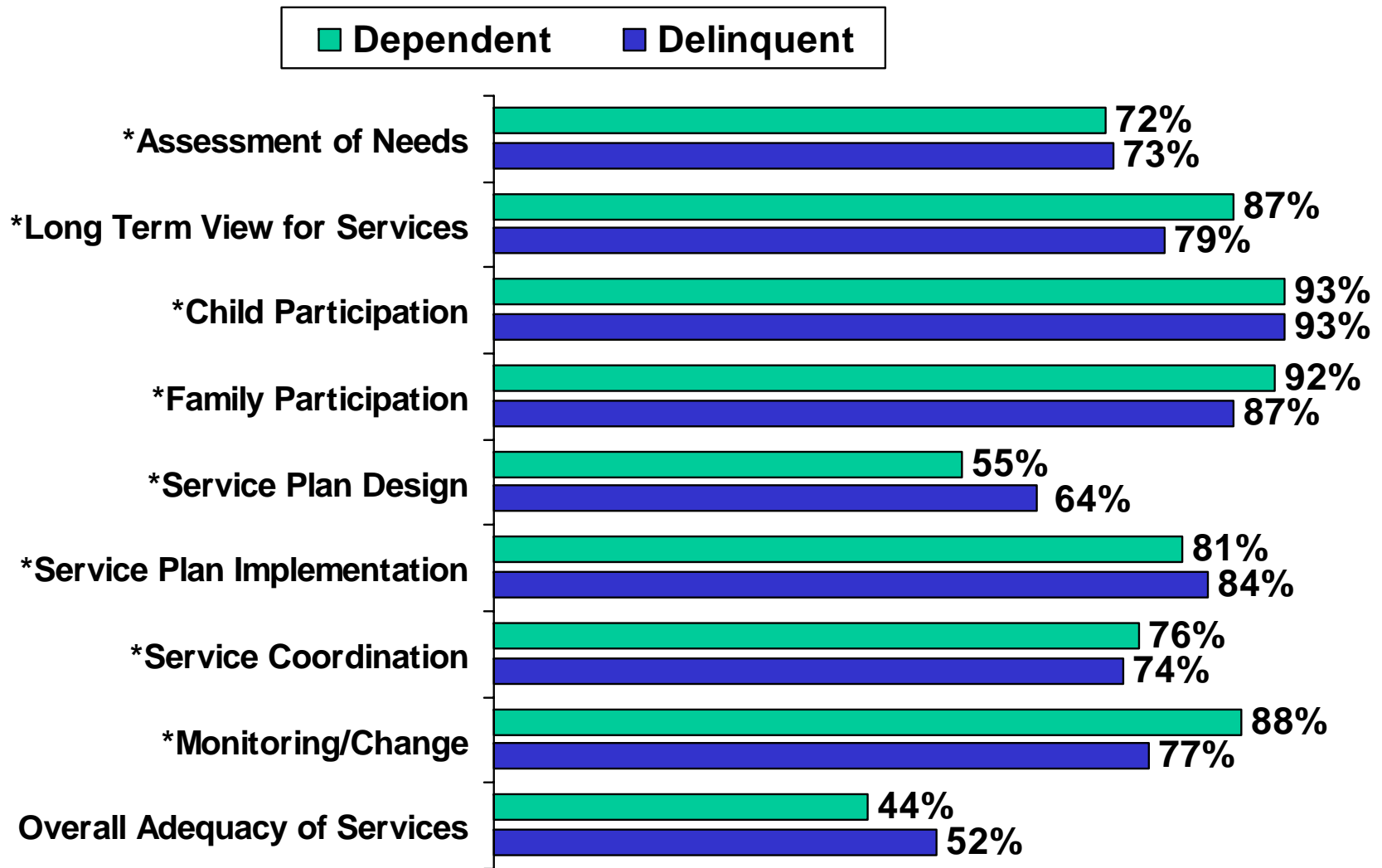
- Status of the child/family.
- Adequacy of service system performance.
- Comparative data for children ages 13+ by delinquent and dependent/neglected/abused adjudications.

# Status of the Child/Family on Key Indicators Comparison By Adjudication Age 13+



2003 CPORT Results

# Adequacy Service System Functions on Key Indicators Comparison By Adjudication Age 13+



2003 CPORT Results

# Integrated CW/JJ Systems

Underlying values for both service systems should be:

- Child-centered/Family-focused.
- Community-based.
- Culturally competent.

An integrated system will be just as dysfunctional as separate systems if organized into separate divisions that do not consistently work toward:

- Communication.
- Coordination.
- Collaboration.

# Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems Both Need:

- Early identification and intervention.
- Families as full partners.
- Individualized services based on needs.
- Least restrictive environment.
- Comprehensive array of services.
- Integrated and coordinated services.

# Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems Both Need:

- Advocacy.
- Culturally competent services.
- Accountable agencies/services.
- Smooth transition to adult services, especially if need services for mental health/mental retardation/developmental disabilities.

# Essential Elements

- Extensive cross training of case managers, service providers, juvenile court judges and staff, and education/school staff.
- Thorough assessment of child and family to identify strengths, issues, needs.
- More involved/supportive relationships with schools.



# Essential Elements

- Advocacy to ensure children/families receive appropriate services.
- Shared resources based on needs of child/family rather than adjudication.
- Recognition that many of same resources/services are appropriate for both populations.

# Common Service Needs: Evidence-Based Best Practices

- Home Visiting Services;
- Parenting Training/Education
- Mentoring;
- Positive Youth Development Programs;
- Mental Health Services;

# Common Service Needs: Evidence-Based Best Practices

- Respite Services;
- Family Preservation/Support Services;
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST);
- Wrap-Around Services/Flexible Funding;
- Therapeutic/Treatment Foster Care.

# Cautions

- Mental health services are critical for both child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- If Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is used to help integrate services, essential that MOU/MOA is not just on paper. Staff must be trained to implement the MOU/MOA from the top to the service delivery level.